

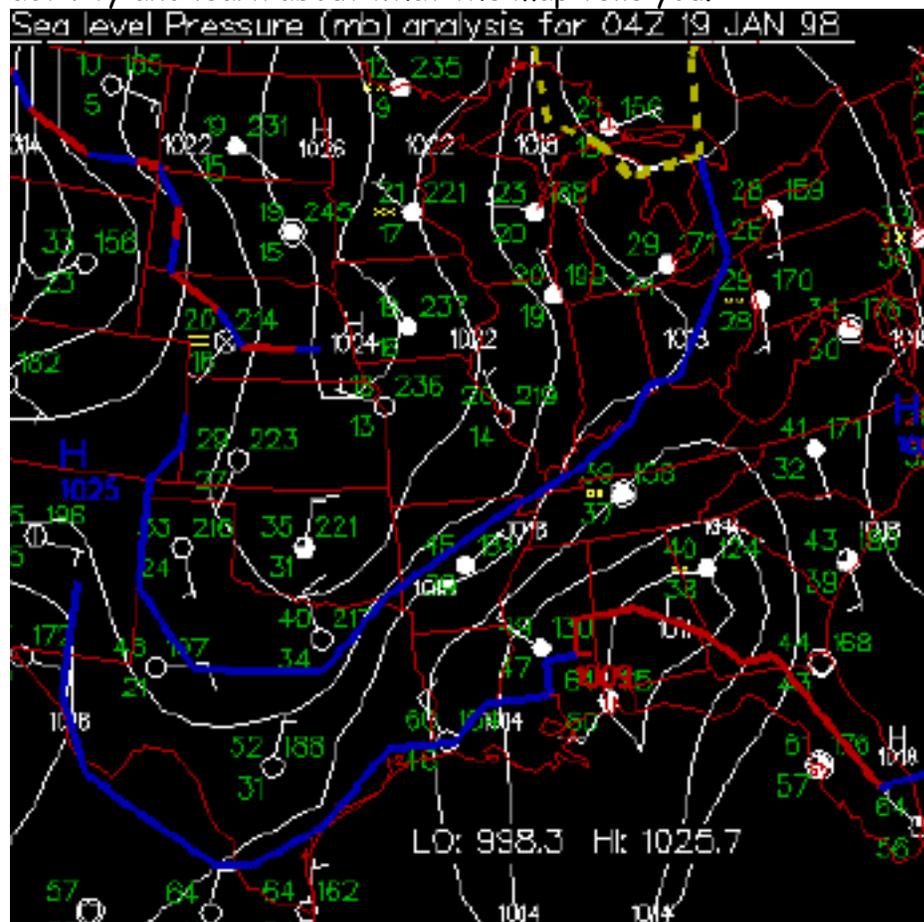
Before doing anything else, add the NOAA Research "Forecasting" page to Bookmarks or Favorites on your web browser.

II. Get Info

The job of weather forecasters is to get information on weather events and pass it on to you. This is so you can plan your day, week, or plan for severe weather such as tornadoes, hurricanes, or thunderstorms.

It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Below is a weather map. Just think of how many words it would take to describe all the information in this picture.

To understand the picture and all the information it has, start the activity and learn about what the map tells you.



A. Weather Symbols

- Click on the symbols site.
- Read the chart and fill in the following common symbols.

1. Common Weather Symbols Chart

	Light	Moderate	Heavy
Rainfall			
Snow			
Thunderstorm		X	
Lightning		X	X

- Click "Back" to return to the Forecasting "Get Info.1" web page.

B. Cloud Cover Symbols

- Click on the "Project Cloud Cover" site.

1. How would you show the skies were about 50% cloudy?

- Click "Back" to return to the Forecasting "Get Info.1" web page.



C. Storm Structure

- Click on the "Project Wind Speed Symbols" site.

1. How do you show the direction that the wind is blowing from?

2. What is the relationship between the length of the lines on the wind barb and the speed that the lines indicate?

3. Write a sentence describing a wind barb showing that a southerly wind is blowing about 15 knots with clear skies.



4. Draw a wind barb showing a northwesterly wind blowing at 20 knots with 25% cloud cover.

5. Convert 20 knots to miles per hour.

6. Draw a wind barb showing 86 miles per hour southwesterly wind and overcast skies. (First, convert miles per hour to knots.)



- Click "Back" to return to the Forecasting "Get Info.1" web page.
- Click "Forward" at the bottom of the screen.

D. Isobars

- Click on the "Project Isobars" site.

1. What are isobars?

2. How can we use isobars to show us the direction of the wind?

- Click "Back" to return to the Forecasting "Get Info.2" web page.

E. Weather Maps

- Click on the "Weather Maps" site.

- Read Section B and answer the following question.

1. How do weather maps help meteorologists?

- Click "Back" to return to the Forecasting "Get Info.2" web page.



F. Weather Systems

- Click on the Weather Systems site.
- Read Sections A and B.

1. What causes weather systems?

2. Why do clear skies usually mean it's going to be cold?

3. What types of pressure area (high or low) would you expect to be in during a thunderstorm?

4. Does air in a high pressure area move towards a higher pressure area or towards a low pressure area?

- Click "Back" to return to the Forecasting main page or choose "Forecasting" from Bookmarks or Favorites on your web browser..
- Click "Gather Data".

